## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 19-20 without prejudice. Please accept amended claims 1 and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for representing a user within an online environment comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of environmental parameters for controlling user interaction, the environmental parameters including a two-dimensional space parameter and a time parameter;

defining a plurality of user representation parameters of user data within the environment;

capturing user data from the user;

displaying an abstract graphical display of the environment to the user; and

displaying a user representation within the abstract graphical display incorporating the user data to the user, wherein the user representation appears at a location in the two-dimensional space according to a level of user activity over time.


2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of defining the environmental parameters comprises:

determining an environmental structure;

governing user interaction within the environment according to the user parameters and the environmental structure; and

displaying an abstract graphical cue of a first parameter of the user in the abstract graphical display of the environmental, wherein the abstract graphical cue moves through the abstract graphical display of the environment according to a second parameter of the user to provide a second abstract graphical cue.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the environmental structure is one of an auction, a queue of users, a chat room, a conference room, a news group, an online help desk, and a business interface.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the user representation based on a user profile.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user data is captured from a user's device registered with a social proxy providing service.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user data is captured from a user's activity within the online environment, wherein the user data is abstracted to provide the user representation.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein user data is updated periodically.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user navigates the abstract graphical display by selecting an object to reveal information about the object.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the object is an element represented in the abstract graphical display, comprising associated data.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the information is one of a hierarchical relationship, content of a compound data object, a zoomed view, and user information.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for representing a social proxy comprising the steps of:

      displaying an abstract graphical display of the social proxy for a virtual environment and facilitating user interaction, wherein the ~~abstract graphical display~~ social proxy is a geometric shape defining a boundary of the virtual environment;

      defining a user proxy for a user, the user proxy having updatable variables;

      displaying the user proxy within the ~~abstract graphical display of the social proxy~~ geometric shape defining the boundary of the virtual environment; and

      updating user proxy variables periodically.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the social proxy is defined by a provider and the user proxy is defined by an abstraction of the updatable variables.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprises the steps of:

      defining a proxy for a provider; and

      displaying the provider within the social proxy.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the provider is the user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further includes the step of displaying a link to a second social proxy.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the social proxy is one of a plurality of social proxies within a hierarchical system of proxies.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the social proxy is used interactively by the user with an application, the application is an extension of the social proxy.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising displaying a portion of the abstract graphical display of the social proxy based on a user's access credentials.

19-20. (Cancelled)